REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-24 are presently pending in the application. Claims 8-10 and 17-19 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 2 and 13 have been cancelled. New claims 20-24 have been added. Claims 1 and 12 are in independent form.

The Abstract and Title have been amended as requested by the Examiner. However, with regard to the Examiner's rejection of line 8 and line 10 of the Abstract the objected material clearly and accurately conveys the disclosed material. A continuous belt can have opposing portions. As the belt rotates about the pulley, any two points on the belt opposite or across from one another will remain opposite one another. Furthermore, the belt is moveable relative to the pulley since the pulley rotates about the belt like a track about the pulley. Accordingly, with respect to the rejections lines 8 and 10 of the Abstract, no amendment is required.

Claims 1-7 and 11-16 were rejected under §112, second paragraph. As discussed above, claim 1 is not indefinite because the belt moves relative to the drive pulley as the drive pulley is driven. Claims 2 and 13 have been cancelled. The proper antecedent basis has been provided for claim 4, and the verb tense has been corrected in claim 6. As discussed above relative to the objections to the Abstract, the recitation of claim 11 with respect to the opposing portions of the belts is proper and requires no amendment.

Claims 1-4, 7, and 11 were rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Adachi. Claim 1 has been amended to require that the profile of the flexible belt include a plurality of protrusions, which is not shown in Adachi. Adachi includes a plurality of rectangular perforations 22. Claim 4 is allowable for the additional reason that a continuous loop is not disclosed in Adachi since it is broken at the glass support member. Claim 7 is allowable for the additional reason that the guides 16 of Adachi do not support the glass support member. Rather, the bracket 18 comprises the glass support member and does not extend to the spaced apart guides. The spaced apart guides of Adachi received the edges of the glass pane. Claim 11 is allowable for the additional reason that the rod, which the Examiner

argues is the unnumber element of Figure 3, does not maintain the distance of the opposing portions of the belt as required by claim 11. The unnumbered rod in Figure 3 is the guide pole 38, shown in Figure 5 and 6. Referring to column 3, lines 36-41 of Adachi, the guide pole 38 is disposed within the sliders 30 and 32, and the upper and lower ends of the guide pole 38 are secured to the door 12. Nothing in the specification or drawings discloses or infers that the guide pole 38 supports the sprockets 24 and 26. Accordingly, there is no disclosure in Adachi which anticipates the claim limitations of claim 11.

Claims 5, 6, and 12-16 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adachi in view of Shibata. Claim 12 requires a panel adapted to be secured to a door. That is, the panel is a component other than the door itself. The brackets are secured to the panel. The panel supports the window regulator assembly components for installation as a unit into a door. A panel as set forth in claim 12 is no where disclosed or suggested in any of the references.

In connection with the above-identified application, applicant encloses herewith for filing the formal drawings containing Figs. 1-4. Approval of this drawing is respectfully requested.

The pending claims are allowable over the prior art for the reasons set forth above. Applicants respectfully early allowance of the claims.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If any fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 6-17-02

Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title as follows:

--PROFILED BELT[-TYPE] REGULATOR--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 13.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 14, and 15 as follows:

1. (Amended) A regulator assembly comprising:

a glass support member for supporting a pane of glass;

a drive motor producing a drive force for moving said glass support member between open and closed positions;

a flexible belt having a profile with a plurality of protrusions, said belt interconnecting said drive motor and said glass support member; and

a pulley with a complementary profile to said profile of said flexible belt with said complimentary profile having a plurality of recesses receiving at least two of said plurality of protrusions, said pulley engaging said belt and [movable] moving said belt relative thereto in response to said drive force.

4. (Amended) The assembly as set forth in claim 3, wherein said belt is a continuous loop supported between said drive pulley and a support pulley.

6. (Amended) The assembly as set forth in claim 5, wherein said brackets include[s] stops defining said open and closed positions.

12. (Amended) A regulator door module for a door comprising:

a panel adapted to be secured to the door;

a glass support member for supporting a pane of glass;

a drive motor producing a drive force for moving said glass support member between open and closed positions;

a flexible belt having a profile, said belt interconnecting said drive motor and said glass support member;

spaced apart brackets connected to said panel supporting opposing end portions of said belt; and

a drive pulley with a complementary profile to said profile of said flexible belt, said drive pulley connected to said drive motor with said drive pulley engaging said belt and [movable] moving said belt relative thereto in response to said drive force.

14. (Amended) The module as set forth in claim 12, wherein said belt is a continuous loop supported between said drive pulley and a support pulley with said pulleys supported by said brackets.

15. (Amended) The module as set forth in claim 14, wherein said brackets include[s] stops defining said open and closed positions.

Please add the following new claims:

20. (New) The module set forth in claim 12, wherein said belt includes a plurality of protrusions and said pulley includes a plurality of recesses receiving at least two of said plurality of protrusions.

21. (New) The assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plurality of protrusions extend laterally across a width of said belt to opposing sides of said belt.

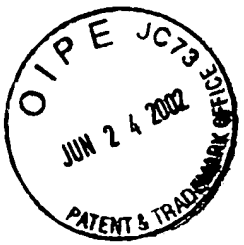
22. (New) The assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said plurality of protrusions are tapered.

23. (New) The assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein said glass support member is generally parallel with a rotational axis of said pulley.

24. (New) The module as set forth in claim 12, wherein said glass support member is generally parallel with a rotational axis of said pulley.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

On page 10 please amend the Abstract as follows:



PROFILED BELT[-TYPE] REGULATOR

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A regulator assembly [is provided] that may be used as part of a door module. Attachment of the regulator assembly components to [the] a panel provides a convenient door module for attachment to a door. The regulator assembly may also be used for sunroofs. The assembly includes a glass support member for supporting a pane of glass or window. A drive motor produces a drive force for moving the glass support between open and closed positions. A flexible belt, such as a timing belt, includes a profile. The belt interconnects the drive motor and the glass support member. In a preferred embodiment, spaced apart brackets may be connected to a panel for supporting opposing end portions of the belt. A drive pulley has a complimentary profile to the profile of the belt. The drive pulley is connected to the drive motor with the drive pulley engaging the belt and movable relative thereto in response to the drive force. The regulator may incorporate a continuous loop belt or a belt having terminal ends that are affixed to a mounting member.